

Townsfolk Gather in Force To Converse with Kojo

by Sandra A. Lange

A packed auditorium greeted WAMU radio personality Kojo Nnamdi for his two-hour show, “Kojo in Your Community.” The program was taped on Tuesday, April 20 at the Greenbelt Community Center between 7 and 9 p.m. The event was broadcast on April 21 and 22, in one-hour segments, for Nnamdi’s regular noon program.

The audience of over 200 people greeted Nnamdi warmly. Wearing a cream-colored suit and matching silk turtleneck shirt, he joked with the crowd about the technicalities of producing the show “live,” saying “You will see how sausage is made.”

His easy-going manner belied a well-thought out format. Throughout the evening various staff members handed him post-its on which were written questions. Two general top-

ics prevailed: What do you like most about/or what brought you to Greenbelt and what problems do you see in Greenbelt and/or Prince George’s County?

The first hour turned into a love fest. One person moved to Greenbelt because it reminded him of Berkeley, Calif. Another read about Greenbelt in Mother Jones magazine. Many described Greenbelt as a livable community where you can easily walk to the library and the grocery store, where there are hiking trails and protected woodlands.

City Councilmember Konrad Herling voiced the view that Greenbelt is an example to many other municipalities for its environmentally friendly and sustainable qualities. Others lauded Greenbelt’s focus on the arts,

See **KOJO SHOW**, page 6

Council Holds Worksession On Public Safety Issues

by Thomas X. White

All seven members of the Greenbelt City Council, the city manager and most of the command staff of the Greenbelt Police Department were on hand for the April 21 worksession to review the city manager’s proposed Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) budget for Public Safety. Also attending the meeting, representing Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Inc. (GVFD&RS), was Brian Rudy, standing in for the chief and the president of GVFD&RS, who were not able to attend.

In addition to the Police Department operations, the city’s public safety budget also includes the annual city contribution to the GVFD&RS and contributions to other volunteer fire departments that have Greenbelt within their call areas.

The Animal Control portion of the budget, also included in the budget section for Public Safety,

is administered by the Planning and Community Development Department and, likewise, the Traffic Control portion of the Public Safety budget is administered by the Public Works Department.

Fire Department

In the Fire and Rescue budget for FY11, City Manager Michael McLaughlin proposes that the city forego the annual \$5,000 contributions to the Berwyn Heights and West Lanham Hills volunteer units for the coming year. Contribution of \$5,000 each to those neighboring departments was initiated in FY2009 in recognition of the service those volunteer units had provided to Greenbelt residents. This year, however, he recommends that no contributions be made for FY11 as a cost saving.

Also the GVFD&RS will have their annual contribution reduced

See **SAFETY**, page 7

Developer v. WMATA Lawsuit Reveals Possible FBI Relocation

by Mary Willis Clarke

A March 15 submission in the lawsuit Greenbelt Ventures, LLC v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in the federal district court in Greenbelt suggests that WMATA has met with the Federal Bureau of Investigation about using the land adjacent to the Greenbelt Metro Station for a possible FBI relocation, a major change from already approved concept plans. The same court filing indicates that Greenbelt Metroland, LLC (Limited Liability Company), prospective developer of the site, was also involved in the FBI discussions and has terminated its relationship with Walter Petrie and Petrie Ross Ventures, parties long considered part of the Greenbelt Station North Core development project.

Background

In 1996 WMATA sought proposals for developing 78 acres adjacent to the Greenbelt Metro station as a transit oriented development. Metroland, which controlled the 86-acre tract south of the WMATA parcel (identified in later plans as the South Core of the Greenbelt Station development), was chosen as the developer and entered into a Joint Development Agreement with WMATA in 2000.

Under the Development Agreement, Metroland was to construct the “billion dollar” North Core mixed-use project. The project was to consist of residential units (270), retail space (800,000 square feet), office buildings (1,000,000 square feet) and a hotel/conference center (195,000 square feet) on the WMATA parcel.

In addition, Metroland was required to construct an enclosed parking structure to replace WMATA’s existing parking lots and bus bays. After the accomplishment of certain development requirements, including zoning change and infrastructure improvements, WMATA would sell the land to Metroland for \$6.4 million.

In 2006 Metroland entered into a Purchase Agreement with Greenbelt Ventures LLC under which the latter would acquire ownership of Metroland and its right to purchase the North Core land, at a price of \$40 million.

Greenbelt Ventures includes Walter Petrie and his Petrie Ross development company and is backed by Prudential Insurance Company financing. The Purchase Agreement required the approval of WMATA since the Development Agreement between

WMATA and Metroland required WMATA approval of any change in the composition of the developer.

Greenbelt Ventures participated in development activities including site plan approvals, zoning changes and special taxing agreements to fund infrastructure improvements and the WMATA parking garage construction. WMATA staff negotiated with Greenbelt Ventures about development issues and the terms under which WMATA would approve the substitution of Greenbelt Ventures for the original members of the development team.

The WMATA board of directors, however, never approved the change in composition of the developer. Although approval of the substitution appeared on the WMATA board agenda in 2008, this item was removed from the agenda after news reports that search warrants and subpoenas had been served on Prince George’s County government offices seeking information about county council actions concerning Greenbelt Station and contacts with the original Metroland principals.

See **WMATA**, page 12

Council Okays Lighting for All 8 Tennis Courts at Braden Field

by Barbara Hopkins

The Greenbelt City Council chambers erupted in cheers and applause Monday night, April 26, when council unanimously approved new lights for all eight tennis courts along with resurfacing half the courts at Braden Field. At least 15 members and supporters of the Greenbelt Tennis Association (GTA) turned out to urge council to expand the renovation to include lighting at all the courts. They greeted council’s action with exuberance. Other items approved by council at that meeting were a contract for street resurfacing and ACE grants to educators.

Not Lowest Bid

Joe McNeal of the city’s Recreation Department explained the staff’s recommendations to accept a bid from Bishop’s Tennis Inc. to resurface courts one through four and replace lights on all eight courts for \$366,848. The amount is \$34,000 over the budgeted amount, but the city would only be responsible for 25 percent of the extra cost, since 75 percent will come from Program Open Space funds. The bid that includes new lighting on only

four courts would be \$231,131.

The recommended bid was not the lowest, being some \$22,000 over the lowest bid, said McNeal, but several lower bids would use lighting systems actually designed for parking lots. They have no track record for sports venues, he said. The manufacturer could not recommend the system for lighting tennis courts and could not provide any examples of the system in use for outdoor tennis lighting in the United States.

City Solicitor Robert Manzi told council it is not required to take the lowest bid if that bid does not meet the needs of the project.

Bishop’s Tennis, Inc. will use the Tennis Optics Advantage Series lighting system, which has received high marks from operators and users.

Project Expanded

Tennis courts one through four have not been surfaced in 15 years and are in bad condition, McNeal said. While lights are working on half the courts, replacing lights on all eight will provide tennis players with better and more uniform lighting and

neighbors will notice improved controls on glare and light spill. The system to be used meets the requirements of the International Dark Sky Association.

There are estimates that energy costs for lights on courts five through eight would be cut in half, although McNeal said due to meter sharing with other light systems, he is not able to provide an actual figure on the savings. The current lights are about 35 years old and replacement parts are not available.

Projected higher prices for future replacements was presented as another reason to expand the budgeted project to include all lights.

A member of the GTA told council they estimate the courts receive from 3,000 to 5,000 visits a year. GTA president Ellen Jent Carter computed the cost per year for the project at about \$10,500, commensurate with city spending on other athletic fields. She also told council that the association contributes “sweat equity” by cleaning the courts

See **LIGHTS**, page 14

What Goes On

- Saturday, May 1**
8:30 a.m. to noon, Greenbelt Lake Cleanup, Buddy Attick Park
- Sunday, May 2**
1 to 4:30 p.m., Artful Afternoon, with Greenbelt Schools Music Festival, Community Center
- Monday, May 3**
7:30 p.m., Council Budget Worksession on Contribution Groups, Municipal Building
- Tuesday, May 4**
7 p.m., Board of Education Community Meeting, ERHS
- Wednesday, May 5**
7:30 p.m., Advisory Planning Board Meeting, Community Center, Room 114
- 8 p.m.**, Council Budget Worksession on Public Works Department, Community Center

Letters to the Editor

THANKS!

Many thanks to the Greenbelt News Review for publicizing the Octtava Piano Duo Concert last Sunday at Greenbelt Community Church. About 50 of us were dazzled by the infectious joy, precision and harmony of Wei-Der Huang and Hsien-Ann Meng. Their canny awareness of each other was flawless, nearly clairvoyant. The concert was a feast for the Francophile (Faure, Satie, Debussy and Franck) and a perfect way to spend a late April afternoon.

Jim Link

Paper Archived

I am a former Greenbelt resident who lived at 127 Rosewood Drive for 18 years before moving to State College, Pa. I remember fondly my years in Greenbelt and the friends I made, many of whom I remain in touch with today.

I am now nearly 86 years old and recently was tickled to learn that a paper I wrote back in 1946 when I was a senior at the Framingham Teachers College was archived at the Smithsonian Institution. I wanted to share this discovery with my Greenbelt friends.

The paper, “Minute Forms of Life in the Waters of the Antarctic Ocean,” drew from the work of renowned Marine Biologist Dr. Charles Wilson. Professor Wilson was one of my father’s, Rev. Stanley Shirt, parishioners in Westfield, Mass., and a member of Admiral Richard E. Byrd’s famous expedition to the Antarctic from 1933 to 1935, just a few years prior to Greenbelt’s creation.

Ruth Shirt-Porter

Cut Out Frivolous Funds from Budget

Although I appreciate the city’s efforts to reduce costs (“City Manager Holds 2011 Budget Proposal to 0.4 Percent Increase”), the overall spending level in the city manager’s proposed budget, in my opinion, is still too high.

In the past, council has refused to do what every other government body does to rein in spending – across-the-board cuts. In the past, council has refused to propose cuts in special giveaways that benefit a few. Here are several suggestions of my own for eliminating frivolous spending:

- Discontinue city funding for the museum
- Discontinue the city’s animal control unit

• Discontinue the city’s practice of replacing all driveway entrances on a schedule. Limit such work to repairing damaged entrances

- Discontinue paying a full-time employee to pick up litter
- Discontinue all city funding for the Old Greenbelt Theatre

These are just off the top of my head; I am not opposed to cuts in any city service. An across-the-board 0.4 percent budget cut for all departments is completely reasonable. If council doesn’t like my suggestions, then it should propose others or convene a citizens advisory board to recommend cuts.

In these difficult economic times, all of us, including our governments, need to tighten our belts. The Greenbelt City Council needs to start supporting the working middle class who pay most of the taxes. The proposed 0.4 percent tax rate increase is particularly insulting to retirees, whose incomes are fixed.

Robert Fireovid

Disturbing In Memoriam

As a friend and neighbor of Peg Shorter’s, I was disturbed by Rick Ransom’s “In Memoriam” piece on Shorter’s daughter Chris Burgess (April 22, 2010). Some of his comments were so personal as to represent an invasion of privacy, given that he’s not a member of Chris’ family. For example, one would think that participation in Step Club activities would be held confidential.

May I make a plea to News Review staff for more care in the future?

Inez Storck

THANKS!

The volunteers and the Ladies of Charity of the Pantry of St. Hugh’s thank you once again for your generous contributions. Your food donations exceeded our expectations.

It is heartwarming to see the benefits of your faithful support. Thank you Greenbelt!

Solange Hess, Chair
Pantry of St. Hugh’s

To Whom Is It “Offensive”?

The letter by Genevieve Courbois in the April 22 News Review cannot go unchallenged. The phrase “melted flesh” is offensive? To whom? Not to me. If it is offensive to Ms. Courbois, then so be it.

I would tell her to take a number and get in line as we live in an age where people compete to be offended by something. What she is asking, however, is that the News Review not print things she finds offensive.

I would remind her that this is America and not Iran and that if she wanted to see “melted flesh,” just rent the Vincent Price classic film “House of Wax.”

Joseph Polanin

Offensive Terminology?

The stultifying mindset of political correctness (PC) appears to have reared its ugly head again.

I read with incredulity the letter of complaint concerning some perceived insensitivity on the part of a reporter’s work covering a story on a recent house

See **LETTERS**, page 14

Corrections

In the front page photo of one of the bands appearing at the Crazy Quilt Festival this Saturday, we misidentified the band. It’s Typefighter seen standing in a field holding musical instruments and ready to play in Greenbelt. We regret the error.

It has been brought to our attention that in last week’s announcement about calling to complete Census questionnaires by telephone we stated incorrectly that questionnaires should no longer be mailed. We were informed that there is no deadline for mailing back Census forms already in one’s possession but that new forms are not being sent.

The Census has now shifted to manual forms of collection, either by phone calls from those who elect to call or by visits from a Census enumerator. The News Review regrets any confusion caused.

P & G’s
OLD GREENBELT THEATRE
301.474.9745
Starting May 14, 2010

“*Letters to Juliet*”

Also, enter to win a
“*Dinner With Your Juliet*”

1st Place--\$30 Gift Certificate at
Beijing of Greenbelt & bouquet
2nd Place--\$25 Gift Certificate at
New Deal Café & bouquet
3rd Place--Free Large Combo

Bouquets provided by *CO-OP Supermarket*
Drawing on May 21, 2010, prior to 7:30 feature
Concession purchase required to enter in drawing

Grin Belt



“With these oil leaks . . . we could skip the shrimp cocktail and calamari.”

A Review

Greenbelter Publishes Kids Book on Bugs

How do insects spend the winter? Written for children ages 4 to 12, Greenbelt resident Amy Hansen’s newest book explores the ways such familiar bugs as a praying mantis, monarch butterfly and honeybee make it through winter’s cold and shortage of food. Each insect’s winter lifestyle is explained in a fun yet informative way.

Written with assistance by Greenbelt scientists Butch and Beth Norden, “Bugs and Bugsicles – Insects in Winter” will inspire a child’s interest in nature and everyday surroundings. The colorful and detailed illustrations promise to spark a child’s imagination.

“Bugs and Bugsicles – Insects in Winter” is Hansen’s 13th book for children and can be bought at the Co-op Supermarket.
– Carol Griffith

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Carol Griffith, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Mary Willis Clarke

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

• OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

• WEEK OF APRIL 30

Date Night

(PG-13)

Friday

*5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Saturday

*3:30, *5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Sunday

*3:30, *5:30, 7:30

Monday - Thursday

*5:30, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.50

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745

129 Centerway

www.pandgtheatres.com

Community Events

Crazy Quilt Festival Is This Weekend

The Crazy Quilt Music Festival opens Greenbelt’s outdoor concert season this Saturday, May 1 with music from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on two stages – inside the New Deal Café and outside in Roosevelt Center.

The festival brings together a wild mix of musical genres, including folk, hip hop, electronica, bluegrass, bossa nova, gypsy jazz swing, and some acts that simply defy description. Craft booths will set up around the plaza. The event kicks off with a kids’ open microphone session on the Roosevelt Center stage at 10 a.m. This is a free event with financial support from the Friends of the New Deal Café Arts and the City of Greenbelt.

For more information visit the official festival website at www.crazyquiltfestival.org.



Typewriter is one of many bands that will be on hand Saturday for the annual Crazy Quilt Music Festival.

Blood Drive Friday Has Been Cancelled

The Red Cross blood drive scheduled for Friday, April 30 at the Greenbelt Community Center has been cancelled due to Red Cross scheduling problems.

The next scheduled blood drive will be held on Thursday, June 24 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Greenbelt Municipal Building.

Call Janet Goldberg at 301-397-2212 to make an appointment if not contacted by the American Red Cross.

Kindergarten, Pre-K Registration Open

Pre-k/kindergarten registration begins at Greenbelt Elementary School on Monday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m.

To register, the child’s shot record and proof of residency are needed. Parents are urged to register their children as early as possible so that the correct teacher allocations can be made. For questions call the school at 301-513-5911.

Greenbelters Take Third Straight Game

The Greenbelters of the Baltimore Beltway Senior Softball League beat arch-rival Dundalk on Wednesday, April 21 by 12-4 for their third win in a row. Pitcher Barry Clark hit a three-run homer while Willie White and Larry Dandridge had two hits each for Greenbelt on their home field.

Rain shortened the third game of the season to seven innings and washed out a planned second game. Next up: Parkville, at home.

Annual Community Yard Sale
Lakeside North Apartments,
430 Ridge Rd.,
behind Greenbelt Police Station
May 15, 8:30 to 2:30

Senior Wii Bowling Team Scores Tied

There’s an exciting competition going on in Greenbelt – it’s those two senior teams who are brewing up a good game of Wii Bowling.

The team from the Greenbelt Community Center calls themselves the “Mighty Mii’s” and the team from Green Ridge House is the “GRH Strikers.” These teams have been striking up a big storm . . . and now their average scores tally up to a very close tie! The Mighty Mii’s score is 171.24 with the Strikers’ score at 171.13.

Tournament

They are gearing up for the Wii Bowling Tournament coming up on May 14. Spectators are encouraged to come cheer on their teams. Look here next week for the continuing story of this competition. Let’s cheer them on for a great job and what great teams both are.

For more information about the upcoming Wii Bowling Tournament call 301-397-2208.

GHI Notes

Friday, April 30 – Offices closed (emergency maintenance available; call 301-474-6011)

Monday, May 3, 7 p.m., Companion Animal Grief Support Group – GHI Library

7 p.m., Coffee Social – Board Room

Tuesday, May 4, 7:15 p.m., Pre-Purchase Orientation – Board Room

Wednesday, May 5, 7 p.m., Member & Community Relations Committee – GHI Lobby

7:30 p.m., Nominations & Elections Committee – GHI Library

Thursday, May 6, 7 p.m., Finance Committee Work Session – Board Room

Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

City Notes

Parking Enforcement staff rode with Police Officer Rose as he used his tag reader and MDT tough book, with 62 tickets issued, 25 vehicles placarded with 48-hour parking notices and 20 tags confiscated for various infractions of the Maryland Vehicle Code.

Animal Control staff removed four pit bulls from an eviction at Empirian Village, one kitten was taken into custody and one squirrel was removed from a home.

Public Works staff met with the Labor Day Committee along with Mayor Judith Davis and Recreation staff members to discuss tree protection during the Labor Day weekend.

Greenbriar Phase II Meets, Elects Board

Greenbriar Condominium’s Phase II reconvened its March 9 Annual Meeting on April 13 with a quorum of 18 percent of homeowners present in person or by proxy. Two positions on the board of directors were open for election. Linda Kulle and Sherre Washington were each elected to a three-year term.

The board elected the following officers for the coming year: President Gary Thomas, First Vice President Jacqueline Gray, Secretary Mary Blizard, Treasurer Linda Kulle and Director Sherre Washington.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Greenbriar Phase III Meets, Elects Board

Greenbriar Condominium’s Phase III reconvened its March 16 Annual Meeting on April 13 with a quorum of 12 percent of homeowners present in person or by proxy. Two positions on the board of directors were open for election. Fran Kemper and Odella King were each elected to a three-year term.

The board elected the following officers for the coming year: President Frances (Fran) Kemper, Vice President Angelina Butler, Secretary Anne Weldon, Treasurer Odella King and Director Thelma Loret De Mola.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 6 p.m.

All Bands Concert At ERHS May 7

The All Bands Concert at Eleanor Roosevelt High School is scheduled for Friday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The concert will feature performances by Concert Bands I & II, the Symphonic Band and the Wind Ensemble. In addition to performing individually, all four bands will play together as a massed band. All bands are directed by Sally Wagner. ERHS and its music programs draw students from all over northern Prince George’s County. The concert is open to the public and admission is free.



More Community Events see pages 5, 7, 11 and 12.

Boxwood Village Offers Scholarship

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual scholarship valued at \$500 to a resident of Boxwood Village. It is available to graduating high school seniors and to full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is funded partially through the Zoo Dip Booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee composed of five Boxwood Village residents will choose this year’s recipient.

For information and/or an application form call Jean Cook at 301-345-2597 or Judy Ott at 301-474-0222.

Arthritis Walk Held At ERHS Saturday

May is National Arthritis Month and there will be a variety of local activities to raise awareness and funds for research to find a cure. This Saturday, May 1 is the kick-off event, a family-friendly Arthritis Walk at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School track from 9 a.m. to noon.

There is no fee for registration, which begins at 9 a.m. with the walk starting at 10 a.m. and all activities ending by noon. Participants choose their distance – one lap, 1 mile, 3 miles or simply come to visit the fundraising booths and activities available at this Arthritis Foundation event. Willie the Clown and Louie from the Baysox will be added attractions. Dogs are not allowed on the track or field. It is still possible to pre-register at www.arthritis.org (Walks – MD – Greenbelt).

Other Arthritis month events include a walk on the national mall in Washington, D.C., on May 15 – this event welcomes leashed pets. Those interested in registering can do so at the www.arthritis.org (D.C. walk site).

The final Dining Out to Fight Arthritis event at the Greenbelt Sir Walter Raleigh Inn will be on Monday, May 17.

For details call 301-335-7689.

Holy Cross Thrift Store
Every Thursday 10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. **301-345-5111**

Explore Line Dancing

The Explorations Unlimited program for Friday, May 7 will feature Carolyn Carroll, who will be teaching more about line dancing. There will also be actual line dancing with audience participation, so come dressed in comfortable clothing. No partners are required and there will be a variety of music played including country western, rock-n-roll and soul.

Carroll works for the city’s Planning and Community Development Department and she has been line dancing for more than 15 years. She participates in line dance competitions and teaches city employees line dancing as part of the Be Happy, Be Healthy program.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center in the Senior Classroom, Room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall
Center Court
301-220-1155
ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.
Adults/Seniors: \$6.50
Children: \$6.00
ALL SHOWS BEFORE NOON ON SATURDAY \$5.00
ALL SHOWS AFTER 5 p.m.
Adults: \$8.50
Students/Military: \$7.50
Children: \$6.00
Seniors: \$6.50
R = ID Required
(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

Week of APRIL 30

FRI. – SAT.
The Back Up Plan, PG-13
11:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10:30
Death at a Funeral, PG-13
11:20, 2, 4:40, 7, 9:50
Furry Vengeance, PG (!)
11:50, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
Why Did I Get Married Too, PG-13
11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10
Kickass, PG-13
11:10, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
Nightmare on Elm Street, R
11:45, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
The Loser, PG-13
11:35, 2:35, 5:10, 7:30, 10:20
How to Train Your Dragon, PG
11:45, 2:20, 5:10, 7:45, 10

SUN.
The Back Up Plan, PG-13
11:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:30
Death at a Funeral, PG-13
11:20, 2, 4:40, 7
Furry Vengeance, PG (!)
11:50, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20
Why Did I Get Married Too, PG-13
11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10
Kickass, PG-13
11:10, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30
Nightmare on Elm Street, R
11:45, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45
The Loser, PG-13
11:35, 2:35, 5:10, 7:30
How to Train Your Dragon, PG
11:45, 2:20, 5:10, 7:45

MON. – THU.
The Back Up Plan, PG-13
12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50
Death at a Funeral, PG-13
12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40
Furry Vengeance, PG (!)
12:30, 2:40, 5:20, 7:40
Why Did I Get Married Too, PG-13
12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50
Kickass, PG-13
12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8
Nightmare on Elm Street, R
12:20, 3, 5:40, 8
The Loser, PG-13
12:20, 3, 5:30, 7:50
How to Train Your Dragon, PG
12:20, 3, 5:30, 7:50



Greenbelt Arts Center

COMING SOON!

Moon Over Buffalo

May 7 – 29, 2010

Tickets are \$15 general admission,
and \$12 for seniors and students.

123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 <http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org>
Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

COMING SOON:

AUDITIONS - ONE ACT FESTIVAL
May 2, 3-5 pm; May 3, 7-9 pm; May 4, 7-9 pm
To be held at 2 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt

Call for Reservations at 301.441.8770

Obituaries

George B. Nelson

Former longtime Greenbelt resident George Burdette Nelson, 93, died peacefully in his home in Beltsville on Monday, April 4, 2010.

He was born in Trenton, N.J., to Nellie and Burdette Nelson on February 9, 1917. He was raised in Washington, D.C. He married Naomi Crawford at age 18 and had three children, Joanne, George "Sonny" and William. His son William died at age 9 months to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. This loss devastated both him and his wife and they eventually divorced.

He later married Helen Richardson in 1946. They moved to Greenbelt in 1952, where they raised their two children, Charles "Chip" and Liz.

He loved Greenbelt and could be seen walking the pathways with his cigar in hand when he retired.

During his professional life he was employed by C&P Telephone Company, from which he retired in 1976 after 40 years service. He and Helen relocated to Leesburg, Fla., in 1992.

His wife died of cancer in January 1994. He loved the Florida weather and remained there until he could no longer live independently. His daughters brought him back to Maryland in July 2009, where they shared in his care. He died in his home, where he wanted to be.

Mr. Nelson had great sadness in his life with the loss of his three sons and his wife of 45 years. He also had great strength and looked at life positively and felt he had lived a very good life.

He is survived by his daughter Joanne and husband Bob Prentiss of Silver Spring, Md.; daughter Liz Robinson of Beltsville and daughter-in-law Joyce Nelson of Greenbelt; seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on April 10 at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

— Liz Robinson, Daughter

Donald Lee Graff Memorial Service

On Thursday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a candlelight service at the Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center in memory of Donald Lee Graff who was struck and killed March 6 by a car on Greenbelt Road.

In case of rain the service will be held on Friday, May 7. Those attending are asked to bring candles.



Synagogue's Annual Gala Honors Its Past Presidents

by Jackie Kling

The annual gala at Mishkan Torah Synagogue in Greenbelt was held on April 25 with "Hail to the Chiefs" as this year's theme. All the synagogue's past presidents were collectively honored with musical tributes, dedications, good natured humor and presentations.

Ben Rosenzweig, the first president and a key influence in the founding of the shul, served three non-consecutive terms beginning in 1939. Since then there have been 33 presidents, of whom 14 were present at the gala.

Master of Ceremonies Cantor Phil Greenfield, who has served as Mishkan Torah's cantor for close to 30 years, eloquently described the membership as possessing "good will, talent, intellect and a sense of humor." His son Ben, a graduate student at Peabody Institute, sang an aria from The Magic Flute, and Joshua Rosen, a senior at Northwood High School in Silver Spring, whose family belongs to Mishkan Torah, played a Mozart French horn concerto.

Other highlights of the evening came when the attending presidents were given the opportunity

to share brief remarks about their tenure. David Stern, who served as president in 1973-1974, presented the congregation with the templates he designed to fashion the iron Hebrew letters that spell Mishkan Torah and still adorn the front of the building. He spoke of Arie Levi, the Israeli-born iron worker responsible for the final product. Levi was a member of Mishkan Torah when war broke out in Israel in October 1973 and returned to Israel for a short time to join his army unit in battle.

Linda Spevack, who served two terms, shared a conversation that she had with her daughter who, after moving to Delaware, was having difficulty finding a synagogue that suited her. When Spevack asked her daughter to describe what she was looking for in a shul, her daughter replied "Mishkan Torah!"

Each president received a framed, watercolor representation of the building inscribed with his or her name and years of service. Marsha Goldfine, a member of Mishkan Torah as well as the Art-Sites Guild for Jewish Art, created the commemorative watercolor.



PHOTO BY JANE MIRSKY

Past Mishkan Torah presidents include: R to L front row – Tony Kritt, Jordan Choper, Linda Spevack and Arnold Strasser; R to L back row – Paul Architzel, Robert Goldberg-Strassler, Gary Kohn, Dave Herschler, Mark Silverstein, David Stern, Ralph Mollerick, Stanley Forster and Steve Mirsky. (Not pictured is Dave Spevack.)



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday 8:15 am Worship Service


9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study

10:30 am Worship Service



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In the process of human evolution, the ages of infancy and childhood are past. The turbulence of adolescence is slowly and painfully preparing us for the age of maturity, when prejudice and exploitation will be abolished and unity established.



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918

Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM


Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Conservative and Reconstructionist

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org




Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 2, 10 a.m.

"Counting the Ways, with Mirth" by Rev. Diane Teichert with Shantida, worship associate and PBUU Church Choir

The many ways we care for one another are often out of sight but so valuable, so valued.




Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors


www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am


Prayer Meeting Sun. 9:45 am



ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.


Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd

St. George's Episcopal Church

Join us around a table where all are welcome!



Services

• Sundays

8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)

10 a.m. main service

(music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)


• Wednesdays

7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)

7010 Glenn Dale Road (Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads

Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbeltucc.org

Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m.

Daniel Hamlin, Pastor


"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

Greenbelt Baptist Church

101 Greenhill Road

Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212

www.greenbeltbaptist.org



Wellcome!

Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School

Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service


Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"

Hope Fellowship

... living life together



Bible Study & Worship

9:30 "Good Morning! Coffee and Snacks

10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship


Pastor Nigel C. Black, MDiv.

99 Centerway Greenbelt Rec Center

(Behind the Community Center)

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301-474-4499



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.

Municipal Building

Upcoming Events
At New Deal Café

On Thursday, April 29 from noon to 2 p.m. pianist Amy C. Kraft plays mid-day melodies. Thursday is also weekly open microphone night, open to song, poetry or prose, even stories from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Friday, April 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (every Friday and Saturday) Greenbelt Piano Man John Guernsey plays blues and jazz. From 8 to 11 p.m. one of the Café's favorites, Hot Club of DC, makes Friday another gypsy jazz/swing night. Hot Club of DC will return again on Sunday, May 9 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Crazy Quilt

The Annual Crazy Quilt Music Festival is also back, on Saturday, May 1. It's a wild mix of 16 acts with everything from folk and hip-hop to bluegrass and electronica, including singer-songwriters, outdoors and in from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. There will be a Kids Open Microphone session outdoors from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

On Sunday, May 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jim Stimson plays Renaissance lute during brunch. He's followed by Misbehavin's acoustic set, from 2 to 4 p.m. The evening ends with Whitney Street's eclectic mix of international folk dance music from 5 to 8 p.m.

Next Week

Next week will feature music in the Café and the Green Man Festival outdoors. Transatlantic Crossing brings everything from English, Irish and Scottish jigs to French Canadian fiddle tunes to the Cafe on Wednesday, May 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. On Friday, May 7 take a trip to Brazil with Rio Garage's bossa nova from 7 to 9 p.m. The 6th annual Green Man Festival will be held outside the Café from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 8 and 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 9. The festival includes music by KIVA and ilyAIMY on Saturday and Izolda and Global Warming on Sunday. There are also films, arts and crafts vendors and a Café food booth. Inside the Café, Woven Green plays upbeat contemporary fusion from 8 to 11 p.m. on Saturday.

School Board Holds
Community Meeting

Prince George's County Board of Education Member Rosalind A. Johnson will host a community meeting at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Tuesday, May 4 at 7 p.m.

The public is encouraged to join District 1 Board Member Johnson, her colleagues on the Board of Education, elected officials and community leaders for an open discussion on issues in public education. Spanish translation will be available at the meeting. For more information call the board office at 301-952-6115.

The Bog Band
May Day Concert

The College Park Arts Exchange will host a performance by The Bog Band on Saturday, May 1 at 4 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road in College Park.

The May Day program will include song and dance with the rhythms and Celtic fiddle tunes of the band's group of young musicians. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is suggested; event as space is limited. For details call 301-927-3013 or email info@cpae.org.



City Information

MEETINGS FOR MAY 3-7

Monday, May 3rd at 7:30pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION-CONTRIBUTION GROUPS** at the Municipal Building. (live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov)

Tuesday, May 4th at 7pm, **BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY MEETING**, at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Tuesday, May 4th at 7pm, **GREENBELT ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, at the Greenbelt Community Center. Info: 240-542-2057.

Wednesday, May 5th at 7:30pm, **GREENBELT ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, at the Greenbelt Community Center, Rm. 114. On the Agenda: Scheduling Review of Beltway Plaza Concept Plan, Summer Meeting Schedule, and Discussion of the City-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Wednesday, May 5th at 8pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION – PUBLIC WORKS**, at the Community Center.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000 or contact the City Clerk at cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE PRODUCE FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED
ADULTS PROGRAM

Join the GAIL Program Team for the Free Produce for Seniors and Disabled Adults Program. This monthly distribution will begin Thursday of June 25, 2010 at Green Ridge House, 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt. The last distribution will be Thursday September 23, 2010. Distributions will be available to the first 150 seniors that sign up. Green Ridge House residents please sign up in the lobby. All other residents interested in registering please contact the GAIL Program office at 301-345-6660. Green Ridge House residents' produce will be distributed beginning at 1:00 pm. Community residents can pick up their items beginning at 3:00-4:00 pm. Please bring your own bags or wheelie carts. Volunteers are needed.

GREENBELT LAKE CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 1
8:30am-12:00noon
Buddy Attick Park

Part of the Prince George's Countywide Spring Cleanup. Sponsored by the GreenACES and the City of Greenbelt. Meet at the area of the lake behind the stage. Bring your hiking boots and work gloves and wear old clothes. Students bring your Community Service Forms to get service hours!
Info: Luisa Robles: 301-474-8308

PART-TIME JOB OPENINGS

ARTS EDUCATION SPECIALIST: Recreation Department, \$12/hr. Coordinate visual arts classes for all ages. Experience in arts ed/ arts admin preferred. Open until filled.
For more information: ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov.

RECREATION ASSISTANTS: needed at busy community center. Customer service & event set up. Weekends and evenings during the week. \$7.25/hr. PT. Greenbelt Community Center. 301-397-2208. EOE

PARK RANGER I (\$8/hr)
The City of Greenbelt Recreation Department will be accepting applications for the position of Park Ranger I. This is a part-time, seasonal position. For information on this position, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov. Click on Current Job Openings.

Visit Greenbelt CityLink at www.greenbeltmd.gov for city news, information and events. Help Greenbelt get its own Facebook URL. Become a fan of the City of Greenbelt page on FACEBOOK!
We only need 116 more fans!
Follow us on Twitter!



COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS OVER THE
PHONE!

Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Program, will be underway until 7/30. During this last phase, questionnaires will not be mailed out to residents who report a missing form or non-delivery of a form. Instead, the TQA will only conduct an interview with the caller in one of six supported languages with or without a Census ID found on the geo-coded questionnaire delivered to your home.
TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
ENGLISH - 1-866-872-6868, Chinese: 1-866-935-2010
Korean: 1-866-955-2010, Russian: 1-866-965-2010
Spanish: 1-866-928-2010
Vietnamese: 1-866-945-2010
TDD (For the hearing impaired): 1-866-783-2010

ANIMAL SHELTER FEATURED PETS



I-r: Frosty: Beautiful white and gray female around 2 years old.
Lex: 5 year old male tiger stripe. **Midnight:** Friendly black male.
The shelter also has FREE Guinea Pigs with cages available!
Become a fan of the Greenbelt Animal Shelter on Facebook! The Greenbelt Animal Shelter is located behind the Police Station at 550-A Crescent Road and open on Wednesdays, from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment.
For more information on any of these pets, call 301.474.6124.
Thank you to all for your donations.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. Vacancies exist on: Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board and Board of Appeals
For more info call 301-474-8000.

Artful Afternoon with Greenbelt Schools
Music Festival!
All ages. Free.

Sunday, May 2, 1-4:30pm
1-3pm: Create art flags for the GHI House and Garden Tour with fabric artist Russ Little. 1-3: All ages Dance Party: learn dances of the 1920s through the 1980s with Angella Foster. 3pm: Greenbelt Schools Music Festival. 1-4pm: Visit the 3rd floor Artist in Residence studios.



Don't miss the...

City of Greenbelt
ANNUAL PET EXPO
Saturday, May 8th
11am-3pm
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road



Rabies and Distemper Clinic, Animal Groups, Information Tables, Silent Auction, Demonstrations, Children's Activities, and more!
Light Refreshments available! Support the Greenbelt Animal Shelter!
COMPANION ANIMAL BEAUTY TALENT CONTEST

All social pets welcome!

City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community
Development 301-345-5417

A Review

A Splendid Performance
By Homespun Ceilidh Band

by Barbara Likowski

On Friday, April 23 the music sounded so inviting it made one hasten to the door to get closer. Inside was the Homespun Ceilidh Band playing the toe-tapping, hand-clapping Gaelic tunes they are noted for.

Not only did they play this rollicking music but they were “one” with it. Everyone in the band was obviously enjoying the music. They swayed, tapped and sometimes jumped up with fervor. Their faces showed how much they cared. This was catching to the audience whose members quickly began to tap and clap also.

Although most of the music was fast and tuneful, other types of Gaelic music were played. There were quiet ballads with a soloist, one member dancing to the beat, delightful violin and

hammered dulcimer duets.

The program was varied as were the instruments members played.

After two encore numbers the audience were reluctant to leave, they had been entertained so well. And this in spite of the few in their number. The band put on a professional show and did not let the fact that their audience was so small change their way or time of playing.

Where were all the fans of Gaelic music who often seem eager to attend and create so much tapping and clapping that they compete with the players? Hopefully their absence will not deter the band’s returning another time – this was a super, awe-inspiring performance by a professional group. We look forward to their next concert.

ACE Awards 15 Grants
To Greenbelt Area Schools

by Jon Gardner

At its meeting on Monday, April 26 the Greenbelt City Council approved 15 Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) grants to local schools. The ACE grants are available to teachers and parent-teacher organizations from Greenbelt schools. The grants are given in response to proposals for projects or items which enhance or enrich school-based activities. They will be funded by the city and selection of the proposals for funding was made by the council based on input from ACE.

Springhill Lake Elementary School PTA will receive grants to support two dance classes. They will initiate a Dance Fitness class taught by Chelsea Calhoun and continue the Modern Dance Class taught by Angella Foster that was begun this year. These after-school classes will promote artistic expression and fitness and are expected to be very popular with the students.

The Magnolia Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will receive a grant called “Science and Mathematics Explorers” to fund a variety of activities throughout the school year and support their participation in the STEM fair. The PTO will also initiate a before-school walking program in which the students will add up the miles walked until they have collectively “walked to California.” The school itself will receive a

grant to support its mentoring program.

Greenbelt Elementary School will receive grants to purchase an outdoor shed to store tricycles used for pre-K and Kindergarten recess, to buy sound and video equipment for their morning announcements and to support their Positive Behavior Intervention System. The school’s PTA will get a grant to purchase art supplies to be used by the classroom teachers to integrate art into the school curriculum.

An ACE grant to Greenbelt Middle School will support an innovative program which will take students who are learning English as a Second Language into DC to visit the White House, the US Capitol and the American History Museum to learn about American history, culture and governmental systems. Another grant to the school will allow special education students to create a book of poetry in the “Book-in-a-Day” program.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School won a grant to support their Literary Magazine, a glossy, high-quality magazine which includes prose, poetry, drawing and photography. The school will also receive a grant to purchase a tournament-style buzzer system for their “It’s Academic” team, and a grant to support their “9th Grade Success Team.”

Jon Gardner is the chair of ACE.

**Audubon Society
Spring Bird Walks**

A free spring bird walk will be led by a member of the Prince George’s Audubon Society on Saturday, May 1 at 7:30 a.m. at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at the end of Lemon Bridge Road, just north of the Bowie State University campus. The walk is for beginners to experts; waterproof footwear and binoculars are recommended. Call 410-765-6482 for details.



**Mid-Week Spring
Bird Walks**

An early evening bird walk will be hosted by the Prince George’s Audubon Society year-round for all levels of people interested in birds and birding. The walks will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursdays, May 6 and 20 on the Luther Goldman Birding Trail. Meet in the parking lot at Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Road and Balew Avenue in Berwyn Heights. Binoculars are recommended. For more information call 301-459-3375.

KOJO SHOW continued from page 1

noting that “Greenbelt is a magnet for young creative, industrious people.”

State Senator Paul Pinsky commented that people in Greenbelt care about each other. Leonie Penney underscored that thought by relating how much the city does to help older people remain in their homes. And John Henry Jones praised the work of Greenbelt CARES for “the tremendous job they do in reaching out to youth.”

Greenbelt Museum Curator/Director Megan Searing-Young reminded people that federal planners selected Greenbelt’s first residents partly based on their willingness to become involved in community events, thereby planting the seeds of volunteerism and activism still alive today. Sylvia Lewis, current Greenbelt Homes Inc. treasurer, elicited laughter when she stated that there was so much to do in Greenbelt that “I wish there were six of me.”

Highway Barriers

Voicing a somewhat negative note, Empirian Village resident Brian Gibbons said it was harder to build a sense of community in Greenbelt East, partly because of the Beltway and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway that divide historic Greenbelt from the rest of the city.

Eulalie Lucas, past president of Greenspring Homeowners Association, concurred. “We are new Greenbelters,” she related. “We do not have the legacy of old Greenbelt but we have a diverse group of leaders.”

“What’s not working so well?” Nnamdi asked, racing from one end of the room to another, microphone in hand. Many people focused on the transportation cuts for Metro which will deliver fewer bus routes to Greenbelt. Others blamed the state, pointing to state transportation funds being directed to the construction of the Intercounty Connector, which Greenbelt vehemently opposed.

County Council Chairman Tom Dernoga said that more taxes are needed but that is unlikely to occur. Others lamented the focus on cars rather than encouraging “walkability” and mobility.

City Councilmember Rodney Roberts scolded legislators for “building transportation for future large developments, i.e. Konterra, and not for existing people.”

One audience member felt that GHI prevented people from purchasing homes by requiring a 10 percent down payment. Sylvia



PHOTOS BY SANDRA LANGE

Kojo Nnamdi prepares to begin the program with his producer and staff assistant.

Lewis responded that GHI is unlikely to change that rule because, even in a housing downturn, GHI has had no foreclosures of its properties. “GHI has stricter criteria than the banks,” she proudly proclaimed. She advised the prospective buyer to “rent and save.”

Fred Tutman, CEO of the Patuxent Riverkeepers, praised the county for its rich natural resources but criticized the destruction of trees and the degradation of water quality. Senator Pinsky agreed that developers are constantly pushing the envelope and that the Smart Growth policy limiting new developments to urban areas is often ignored.

Frustration permeated the crowd as many speakers bemoaned the fact that Prince George’s County does not have the high quality of development at Metro stations that is common in neighboring counties. “Where is the visionary leadership?” Director of Urban Studies and Planning at the University of Maryland Jim Cohen asked. “Why can’t we get it together?” he reiterated.

County Council Chairman Dernoga blamed lobbyists and developers for the continuation of urban sprawl while some audience members blamed the county council and county executive for their lack of leadership.

Shopping Concerns

Alan Turnbull voiced the opinion that as far as he was concerned he didn’t want a Trader Joe’s in Greenbelt because he would rather shop at the Co-op, where he is a member. “And

who cares about Nordie’s” (Nordstrom’s), he shouted to laughter and applause. “We don’t want them,” he affirmed.

Education also came in for criticism. “What’s going to be done about making schools better?” one woman asked. Another young woman said she was contemplating moving out of Greenbelt despite its convenient location because she wanted access to better schools once she started a family. Another claimed that Prince George’s County teachers are just as good as teachers in other areas.

The two-hour community forum came to an end quickly. Those who wanted to participate in the conversation did so with animation and respect. What did Kojo think? this reporter asked.

Greenbelt is passionate about its commitment to its ideals: transportation, education, public safety, the environment, “But you have no idea how to persuade county government to get the things you believe in,” he replied.

And that’s a wrap!

Patuxent Refuge
Spring Artists

For each month of spring the National Wildlife Visitor Center’s Hollingsworth Gallery will feature a different artist: Mary Konchar in April, Richard Suib in May and Ramona Maziarz in June.

May Artist Richard Suib is a longtime resident of Great Falls. During his career as an exhibition designer and project director for the American Museum of Atomic Energy and USIA, Suib won a number of awards including the Presidential Design Excellence Award given by the National Endowment for the Arts. Throughout his career, he has always painted and continued to do sculpture, lithography and photography – activities for which he finally has time since he “hung out his shingle” in 1988 as an independent design consultant.

Suib’s present focus is digital imaging, a medium he considers revolutionary because it gives artists a new way to “realize and conceptualize images” and transform them at will. Photography is the basis of his work but not an end in itself.



The Kojo Nnamdi staff selected a number of Greenbelters to act as facilitators during the evening. These included Jim Cohen, director of Urban Studies and Planning, University of Maryland; Megan Searing-Young, Greenbelt Museum curator/director; Eulalie Lucas, past president of Greenspring Homeowners Association; Sylvia Lewis, treasurer of Greenbelt Homes, Inc.; Kojo Nnamdi; Brian Gibbons, resident of Empirian Village; and Fred Tutman, Riverkeeper and CEO, Patuxent Riverkeepers.

GIVE BLOOD
Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE

SAFETY continued from page 1

from the \$98,000 in FY2010 to \$60,000 for FY11.

In FY2006, the city paid out \$329,500 toward the purchase of a new vehicle and in FY2009 \$157,227 was paid out for the purchase of an ambulance.

The city is also working with the GVFD&RS and Prince George’s County officials in an effort to identify a new location within Greenbelt for construction of a new fire house. Rudy related to council the increasing level of repairs that the GVFD&RS, Inc. has to fund because of the 50 year age of the present fire house. He noted particularly the need to upgrade the auxiliary emergency generator that is as old as the building.

Police Department

The manager has proposed a budget for the Police Department of \$10,047,600 for FY11. This is just \$900 over the estimated \$10,046,700 the manager believes the department will spend by the end of FY10 and \$122,200 less than was budgeted for the department for FY10.

All expected state, county and other sources of revenue helping to fund the department’s activities in the next fiscal year are flat, essentially even with the manager’s projections for the current fiscal year and several thousand lower than what was allocated in last year’s adopted budget. Likewise, city revenue proposed to cover the department’s operations for FY11 is set at \$9,138,600, which is \$13,200 less than last year’s adopted budget figure and just \$13,900 more than the expected expenditures for FY10.

Staffing for the department is projected to remain at 54 police officers and 15 support staff for communications, records management and communications/dispatch. Although additional slots for police officers were contemplated by the expected development of the South and North Cores of the Greenbelt Station project in Greenbelt West, given the poor forecast that any development may take place at either the South Core or the North Core, those new positions have not been funded in either the FY10 or the proposed FY11 budgets. Salaries for police officers are proposed to decline by 1 percent in FY11, the decline due primarily to the retirements of two officers at the top of their pay grades.

Police Budget

As has been the custom for budget presentations for the larger city departments, the Police Department staff presented a comprehensive slide presentation covering crime statistics, department programs, current and new initiatives, public/private partnerships and awards and recognition. The presentation consisted of 65 slides covering everything you wanted to know about the full service Greenbelt Police Department and took about one hour.

The presentation was delivered by Corporal Maria Parker and as the presentation evolved, Police Chief James Craze and his senior staff provided commentary to council on the various programs and activities carried out by the force.

Crime in City

After averaging two homicides for the past five years, the city reported no homicides in 2009. Property crimes decreased 5 percent overall but still made up 86 percent of total crime in 2009, with breaking and entering (bur-

glaries) increasing from 122 in 2008 to 212 in 2009 (a 74 percent increase).

Car thefts were down 39 percent to 166 in 2009. Robberies remain the most prevalent violent crime, though it dropped 16 percent from 152 incidents to 127 in 2009. Sixty-seven per cent (94) of the robberies occurred in Greenbelt West, 23 percent (29) in Greenbelt East and 8 percent (10) in old Greenbelt. Overall the location breakdown for crime in Greenbelt for 2009 was 15 percent in central Greenbelt, 31 percent in Greenbelt East and 54 percent in Greenbelt West.

The department’s clearance rate for crimes in Greenbelt was 16 percent. This rate compares favorably with the 12 percent rate for all agencies in Prince George’s County and the 14 percent rate for all Maryland jurisdictions in the Washington Metropolitan area. However, the closure rate for all agencies in Maryland was higher, 24 percent.

Lieutenant Carl Schinner described a new unit formed in 2009 and named Patrol Commander’s Squad (PCS) that was made up of several small units within the Patrol Division. Once crime trends are identified, the PCS develops a corresponding plan of action to address the issue.

Schinner said the PCS spent much of 2009 focusing on armed robberies and burglaries and has taken the lead in saturation patrols in the Empirian Village neighborhood. Depending on the nature of the operation, plain-clothes and/or uniformed officers on foot, in cars or on bicycles can be deployed.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Judith Davis noted that residents in the area of the Gladys Spellman overpass have registered concern regarding increasing problems in that area, mainly the congregation of young people there. Police officials took note and indicated that residents might not be aware of actions already being directed to such areas.

Schinner also described for council another tool the department was using to address increased crime in Greenbelt neighborhoods. It is Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS), which emphasizes the use of traffic enforcement to reduce automobile collisions, vehicle law violations and crime in general. The theory is that a high degree of visibility is achieved. Residents are provided with a feeling of security and criminals a degree of discomfiture.

FY11 Objectives

The budget document lists three operational objectives for the Police Department in FY11, all involving technology and new systems for Greenbelt.

The first is to develop a plan to implement the use of speed cameras in school zone areas as now authorized by state legislation. Several neighboring municipalities have taken advantage of this new authority and have either installed such cameras or are in the implementation stage for the program in their city.

The city already has red-light cameras at various locations and just under 4,000 citations were issued as a result of camera surveillance. That program was contracted out to LaserCraft last year and new online violation software was completed by midyear. In 2009 there was a 1 percent de-

crease from the previous year in citations issued.

The most frequent violation location was northbound Kenilworth Avenue (Rte. 201) at southbound I-95 with 32 percent of the total (1,278 infractions). Included in the presentation was an actual video clip of a near-miss accident at Kenilworth northbound and the off ramp from I-95 North that was captured by the red-light camera there.

From a budget perspective, the expected revenue and expenses from the red-light camera violations are almost a wash. The projected revenue from the camera violations for FY11 is \$280,000. The offsetting expenses are projected at \$249,000.

Another aspect of technology being brought to bear on traffic-related infractions is the recent addition of a mobile vehicular license plate reader. The reader, obtained with federal funding, has the ability to read license plates as vehicles pass by, providing an alert each time a wanted vehicle or owner has been identified. Councilmembers were somewhat captivated by this news.

Computer System

The second technology objective for FY11 is to move forward on the implementation of a new Computer Assisted Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS). A team of city employees will be working to put the new system in place by the end of this calendar year. An issue discussed with council was the need to totally renovate or expand the existing dispatch office at police headquarters.

Finally, another upgrade in technology is planned with the city’s implementation of a new state-of-the-art 700 MHz interoperable radio communications equipment that would tie into the Prince George’s County regional system. This long-awaited system (since September 9, 2001) is intended to connect all area public safety agency communications, allowing agencies throughout the region to communicate with each other in emergency situations. Federal grants have been obtained by the city to purchase and implement both CAD/RMS and the communications system. The implementation of both systems will be coordinated.

Council Discussion

Considering the long and

comprehensive presentation, council discussion was not very intense. Members were focused on the implementation time frames and other issues with the CAD/RMS and communications systems.

Lieutenant James Parker told council that Greenbelt will be able to learn from the City of Laurel as it plans to go on-line with its CAD/RMS system next week. It was indicated that the Public Works Department may be able to utilize some of the old police equipment.

In response to a question from Councilmember Edward Putens it was said that additional personnel may be needed for monitoring cameras being installed in some Greenbelt neighborhoods.

There was also discussion regarding the best options for linking Greenbelt with the region-wide communications system. Lt. Parker said that these may include a line-of-sight antenna system directed at the Maryland Police facility in College Park or a fiber line to Greenbelt’s existing antenna at the water tower at upper Ridge Road.

In response to Councilmember Konrad Herling regarding police policies with homeless persons in Greenbelt, the officers indicated that they would refer such persons to Greenbelt CARES. Councilmembers also raised the issue of citizen contact with police dispatchers and the response was that that aspect was part of dispatchers training. When asked how many active neighborhood watch groups there were, the response was about six to eight.

Putens asked if Greenbelt officers with take-home car privileges are compensated for police stops they may make while off-duty. The response was no and he suggested that be publicized.

Davis wondered about the money that may be needed for renovation of the dispatch office and was told that the department was considering left-over funds from the Metroland development agreements. Davis, who also likes the written reports provided on budget issues, asked that they be provided every year.

Councilmembers also inquired about “diversity” within the department and about foreign language aptitudes of the officers. The response was that three officers speak Spanish and one each

speak Korean, Mandarin Chinese and German.

The last item discussed was related somewhat to recent problems associated with the TGIFriday’s clientele and “Bike Night” on Wednesdays at the restaurant. Council wanted the department to be aware of recently passed legislation by the Maryland General Assembly regarding the ability for certain restaurants in the county to be granted temporary “Night Club” permits. They suggested that the city be prepared if any of the restaurants in Greenbelt seek such permits.

Library to Relocate On Monday, May 10

In early May contractors will begin renovation of the Greenbelt Branch of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. Beginning May 10, the branch will be located next door at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 110. The move will take place on Saturday, May 8. Branch hours will remain the same. The renovation is expected to take about six months.


Available Services

During the renovation, limited library service will be available at the Community Center. There will be a small selection of new materials, DVDs, basic reference and children’s books; due to limited space there will be very little seating; a small number of public computers will be available for internet access or word processing; items may be returned and reserved items will be available for pick-up; and the copier will be available.

Library staff will help customers to the extent possible. For homework help library patrons can also use the library website at www.pgcmlls.info. Live Homework Help and other electronic resources are available from home computers.

The website is also available for online services, to view accounts, reserve and renew materials as well as for other branch library locations and hours. Phone renewals are available by calling 301-333-3111.

The nearest branches to Greenbelt are the Hyattsville and New Carrollton libraries.



Call for Candidates

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Audit Committee
Nominations & Elections Committee

**Are you still thinking about running for GHI office?
Time is running out! Just do it!**

Four members will be elected to the GHI Board at the May 19 Annual Meeting, as will all three members of the Audit Committee and all five members of the Nominations & Elections Committee. The deadline for filing to run at the GHI office or with an N&E member is **Friday, May 7**.

A Candidate Packet, including the necessary information and forms, is available at the GHI office or on the GHI web site at <http://ghi.coop> (click on “Elections”). If you prefer, GHI will mail the packet to you.

All members are encouraged to attend the Candidate Forum on Friday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Learn about the candidates' ideas and qualifications, and come prepared to ask the tough questions!

Mark your calendar to attend the GHI Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. Registration opens at 7 p.m. Voting will take place following the meeting and from 7-10 a.m. and 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, in the GHI Board Room.

Earth Day in Greenbelt Brings Out Happy Crowd

by Claudia M. Jones

“Let the planting begin,” said Greenbelt City Councilmember Rodney Roberts, shovel in hand, as he led members of two city environmental organizations in the first of four scheduled events on Saturday, April 24 in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day. Residents and members of the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) and the Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) gathered for the first event – the planting of a rain garden, which took place near the new restroom facility at Buddy Attick Park.

This event was followed by a tree planting, nature walk, picnic and, finally, an exhibit at the Public Works building. Leading the planting process was the city’s Assistant Director of Parks and Grounds, Lesley Riddle.

All members of the city council except the mayor were present at the first Earth Day project.

Shovels in hand and sleeves rolled up, the group began to plant the first of 40 varieties of native plants and grasses. The tasks of digging the hole and placing the plant in the ground were shared as conversations and laughs were exchanged among the group. Councilmember Edward Putens joked that he was good at giving instructions and digging holes for Councilmember Silke Pope.

The rain garden planting led to the tree-planting project. A total of 56 trees were planted next to the Public Works building – dogwoods, red oaks, native witch hazel and sassafras trees.

As the digging continued, so did the conversation. Resident Pam Goddard said, “My daughter Elaina and I participated in the Earth Day event last year, the planting of a rain garden next to the Greenbelt Recreation Center. We participate in the Greenbelt Earth Day event every year as a way of showing our community spirit and pride and a means of

giving back to our community.” Resident David Whaples added, “My family has lived in Greenbelt for the last 15 years. It’s a treasured town.” Whaples’ son Hunter planted his first tree and grinned from ear to ear as he stood next to the tree as his mother snapped his picture.

Tree planting ended, the group ventured on to the third Earth Day event, the nature walk.

Walking slowly to a tree, Riddle asked, “Does anyone know what kind of tree this is?” Someone answered, “A maple tree.” Riddle replied, “No, although a close guess, it is a red maple; a native tree.”

Riddle posed another question, “Does anyone know how to tell how old a tree is?” Blank stares led Riddle to answer, “The only way to know how old a tree is to cut it down and count the rings.” Riddle also discussed signs and facts about a tree in stress.

Big Mulberry

The group approached the lake. Off to the left was a big mulberry tree surrounded by yellow rope. Riddle said, “This is the largest mulberry tree I’ve ever seen.” She continued, “Mulberry trees are slow-growing trees and can be of two sexes. The mulberry tree at the lake is a one-sex tree and cannot bear fruit.”

Standing in front of the lake, Riddle said, “Greenbelt Lake is a man-made lake, built in 1938 and stocked every March by the Department of Natural Resources with trout and bass.”

She continued, “Eighty percent of the lakes in Maryland are man-made. Other critters found at the lake are snapping turtles, frogs, bats and snakes.”

Discussions led to the importance of a watershed. Riddle said, “The Anacostia River is a watershed and tributary channel to the Chesapeake Bay. What is dumped in the sewers and spigots ends up in the Anacostia River and eventually the bay.” She reiterated that what is dumped down the drains at home

and at work ultimately ends up in our water.

The celebration continued at the picnic held at the Public Works building with hot dogs, chips and snacks provided by the department.

Also on exhibit were wind power and water ecosystems displays. The Indian Creek Watershed group, Concerned Citizens for Restoration of Indian Creek (CCRIC), Beaver Dam, Still Creek, Clean Currents and Master Gardener’s groups were present.

Wind Power

Luisa Robles, recycling coordinator for the City of Greenbelt, discussed the advantages of using wind as a source of power instead of the coal used by Pepco for acquiring electricity. Robles said, “If a resident uses wind power as a source of power, the City of Greenbelt gets a \$15 donation, which goes into the Greenbelt Community Foundation.”

Michelle Touchet, a member of the Friends of Still Creek, discussed Beaver Dam Creek, Indian Creek and Still Creek, the three watersheds in Greenbelt. Said Touchet, “Beaver Dam Creek travels through parts of GHI, Greenbelt West and BARC property. Indian Creek, the largest creek, travels through Laurel, Greenbelt and College Park and then flows into the Anacostia River.”

She went on, “Still Creek travels through parts of GHI and Greenbelt East (Safeway and surrounding areas).” Touchet stressed, “Everyone has a responsibility to keep the three waterways safe and clean.” Then she added, “Greenbelt is ready for the challenge of preserving and protecting the wetlands and watersheds.”

As the event came to a close, this reporter walked home with a sense of pride and a sense of a green and earth-friendly community, while Public Works member Michael Jawer meticulously sprinkled mulch around the newly planted trees.



PHOTO BY JUDI BORDEAUX

Councilmembers Konrad Herling and Rodney Roberts assist Charles Jackman and others planting the rain garden in Buddy Attick Park in the city’s Earth Day Celebration.



PHOTO BY JUDI BORDEAUX

Charles Jackman, chair, Advisory Committee on Trees, planting near new Public Works Building.



PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

Judi Bordeaux and others prepare holes for tree planting as part of the city’s Arbor Day celebration.

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					\$ 2⁴⁹
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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robberies

April 17, 6:24 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. A man doing repair work on his vehicle saw a tan 1990s Cadillac with darkly tinted windows and white-wall tires pull into the parking lot. Three men exited and approached him, leaving one person in the car. One male demanded the person's money as another male held a metal pole in his hands. The man handed over his money and the four robbers left in the Cadillac. The three men that had exited the Cadillac were described as black males in their 20s. One male about 5'11" tall, 170 lbs., was wearing a green baseball hat, white T-shirt and blue jeans. Another male wearing a black jacket was about 5'10" tall, 170 lbs., with long hair and a tattoo below the right eye area (which could have later been removed).

April 18, 4:42 a.m., 8100 block Mandan Terrace. A man in a parking lot was approached by three males, one of whom pointed a handgun at him while the other two knocked him to the ground and stole his wallet and car keys. They then fled in a dark blue or black minivan. They are described as black males, one of which was wearing light-colored clothing.

April 18, 4:21 p.m., 6100 block Greenbelt Road. A female reported she was approached by two other females who asked to use her cell phone. One of the females tried to forcibly take it by repeatedly striking her. She resisted, after which both females fled on foot. They are described as black females ages 16 to 18 with thin builds, one about 5'5" tall and the other about 5'7". One was wearing a black jacket and blue jeans and had long braids.

April 19, 4:33 p.m., 9200 block Springhill Lane. A person was approached by a youth who demanded money but after the person refused, the youth fled. He is described as an Hispanic male 15 to 16 years old wearing a red Lakers short-sleeve jersey and blue jeans.

CDS Arrests

April 17, 10:36 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Lane. A 20-year-old nonresident male was arrested and charged with possession of controlled, dangerous substance (CDS) paraphernalia after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

April 18, 12:45 a.m., Lakecrest Drive at Greenbelt Road. A 23-year-old male resident was arrested after a traffic stop and charged with possession of a CDS (marijuana), driving under the influence and driving with a revoked license. He was released on citations pending trial.

April 21, 10:38 p.m., 9100

block Springhill Lane. A 16-year-old resident youth was arrested on a juvenile petition for possession of CDS (marijuana) and released to a parent.

April 22, 2:58 a.m., Breeze-wood Drive at Edmonston Road. A 21-year-old female nonresident was arrested and charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia after a traffic stop and released on citations pending trial.

DUI/DWI

April 18, 12:55 a.m., Greenbelt Road at Hanover Parkway. A 37-year-old resident male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and other traffic violations after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

April 23, 1:19 a.m., Greenway Shopping Center front parking lot. A 24-year-old nonresident female was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related driving violations after a traffic stop. She was released on citations pending trial.

Drug Arrest

April 14, 10:57 a.m., 5700 block Cherrywood Lane. A 32-year-old male resident was arrested and charged with possession of alcohol/open container violation after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

No License

April 22, 11:27 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. A 16-year-old Greenbelt youth was arrested for driving without a license after a traffic stop. He was charged on a juvenile petition and released to a parent.

School Disruption

April 16, 1:30 p.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School. A 17-year-old resident youth was arrested and charged with disruption of school activities. He was later released to a parent pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

Disorderly Conduct

April 11, 1:30 a.m., T.G.I. Friday's parking lot. A 40-year-old nonresident male was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after a verbal altercation. He was released on citation pending trial.

April 20, 3:54 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Drive. Two Greenbelt juveniles ages 13 and 14 were arrested for causing a large crowd and engaging in a fight with a third person. Both youths were charged on juvenile petitions with disorderly conduct and released to their parents.

Trespass Arrests

April 15, 12:57 p.m., 9200 block Springhill Lane. A 15-year-old Greenbelt youth was arrested for trespassing and failure to obey a lawful order. He was charged on a juvenile petition and released to his mother.

April 20, 7:04 p.m., 5800

block Cherrywood Terrace. Two nonresident juveniles ages 15 and 16, previously banned from Empirian Village, were arrested for trespassing. They were charged on juvenile petitions and released to their parents.

Burglaries

April 11, 11:09 a.m., Near 36 Court Ridge Road. A laptop and laptop leather case were taken.

April 19, 5:11 p.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. A door lock was tampered with and broken.

April 19, 8:44 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. Two TVs were taken.

April 20, 1:06 a.m., 7400 block Greenbelt Road. A commercial burglary occurred.

April 20, 12:26 p.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway. A laptop, clothing and Sony video camera were taken.

April 21, 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace. A door lock was broken; nothing was taken.

April 22, 6:08 a.m., 6000 block Breezewood Drive. Two TVs and credit cards were taken.

April 22, 3:19 p.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. U.S. currency, two Playstations, Nintendo Wii, Sony LCD TV, and laptop were taken.

Malicious Destruction

April 19, 1:27 p.m., Northway/North End Fields. Windows on heavy equipment were shattered.

Vehicle Crimes

Two stolen vehicles were recovered. A vehicle reported stolen on April 22 from the 9100 block Springhill Lane was located without damage after the car owner told investigators who was suspected of taking it. A 2008 Honda Civic stolen from Springhill Court at Springhill Drive on January 14 was recovered April 22 by the Washington Metropolitan Police Department with no arrests made.

There were seven reports of thefts from vehicles. 5800 block Cherrywood Lane, two incidents (MD license plates 4ESR60, 55580M3), 20 Crescent Road (MD license plate 6CWM91), 7800 block Mandan Road, three incidents (Garmin GPS; subwoofer and amplifier; four rims with tires, headrest TVs), 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace (front and rear driver side tires).

Vandalism was reported in the 100 block of Westway, where the passenger side and trunk of a vehicle were spray painted green. In the 6200 block of Springhill Court, three cars had tires punctured: one had punctures to both driver side tires; another, punctures to three tires; and the third, punctures to one tire. In the 100 block Hedgewood Drive, a car door handle was damaged.

Greenbelt Baseball

Major League Standings as of April 27

	W-L		W-L
<u>American League</u>		<u>National League</u>	
Indians	5-1	Giants	3-1
Yankees	4-1	Tigers	2-1
Cardinals	1-3	Athletics	1-2
Cubs	0-4	Orioles	1-4

Major League Schedule May 3 through May 8

Date	Time	Games
Monday, May 3	6 p.m.	Cardinals vs. Orioles
Tuesday, May 4	6 p.m.	Indians vs. Athletics
Wednesday, May 5	6 p.m.	Yankees vs. Tigers
Thursday, May 6	6 p.m.	Giants vs. Cubs
Friday, May 7	6 p.m.	Orioles vs. Athletics
*Friday, May 7	7 p.m.	Yankees vs. Cardinals
Saturday, May 8	10 a.m.	Cubs vs. Indians
Saturday, May 8	1 p.m.	Giants vs. Tigers

*Game played at Braden #2.
All other games are played at McDonald Field off Southway.

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Far-reaching Metrobus Changes Could Happen This Summer

by John Stith

After several Greenbelters called for more time, Metro’s interim General Manager Richard Sarles proposed on April 22 that far-reaching changes to Metrobus routes take effect in September not June as previously suggested.

Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis, Councilmember Konrad Herling and residents Michael Cohen, Melissa Ehrenreich, Jennifer Erick, Jessica Forshee, Doug Love, Matt Johnson, Laura O’Neil, Shawn O’Neil, Bill Orleans, Barry Schlesinger, Anna Socrates and this reporter were among the Greenbelters who spoke at Metro’s public hearings in late March and early April. Among the many concerns they addressed were the lack of time for Greenbelters to consider Metro’s proposal, the impact of bus transfers on people with disabilities, the efficient use of public funds and the value of transit investments for increasing employment, reducing traffic and raising children.

Many other Greenbelt residents have submitted written comments to Governor Martin O’Malley and Maryland officials on Metro’s board through a petition at www.fairshareformetro.com. In total 1,600 Greenbelters have been counted using public buses on any given weekday and the majority of them would be affected by the changes proposed by Metro.

Route Changes

The actual route changes and whether they should be changed at all are still under active discussion. Attempts to change Greenbelt’s routes date back to 2008, when the Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW) drafted a five-year plan that cut three Greenbelt routes without specifically outlining their replacements. The stated purposes of the changes were to increase efficiency, discontinue a route (TheBus 11) with a small total number of riders and quicken service for Greenbelters with longer rides.

Though that plan has been formally adopted, it has not been implemented and Metro is seeking to address widespread community concerns by formulating a different plan. After Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G) gathered input from more than 100 Greenbelters last year, its representatives have met with county, city and Metro planners three times since last summer to jointly study the ways Greenbelters want to use public bus services.

Both Metro and Prince George’s County operate bus routes through Greenbelt. On any given weekday at 8 a.m., nine Metrobuses (painted blue, white and red) are plying Greenbelt streets, as well as four of the plain-white “TheBus” vehicles, operated by the county.

Most of the more than 1,600 Greenbelters start public bus trips in city residential neighborhoods each weekday then board again to return home; many of them are among the 1,500 daily bus boardings at the Greenbelt Metrorail station and 1,000 boardings in the vicinity of Beltway Plaza.

The three sections of Greenbelt are home to similar numbers

Riders Counted Boarding Buses in Greenbelt Residential Neighborhoods*				
Routes	Greenbelt West	Central Greenbelt	Greenbelt East	Totals
Metrobus R12	157	100	363	620
Metrobus C2	175	276		451
Metrobus T16/T17	51	56	135	242
TheBus 16	141	4	75	220
TheBus 15	14	20	37	71
TheBus 11	38			38
Metrobus R3	20			20
Totals	596	456	610	1,662

**counted on a weekday by Metro and Prince George’s County.*

Note: Boardings in residential neighborhoods are counted here to provide an estimate of how many Greenbelters are using public bus routes each day. Boardings at business locations and the Metrorail station are not included because those boardings are for transfers or return trips home.

of residents using Metrobus and TheBus. In Greenbelt West, there were 596 riders counted boarding these buses in Empirian Village; in the central section of the city there were 456 boardings in residential neighborhoods; and in Greenbelt East, there were 610 riders on the weekday surveyed.

Popular Stops

The most popular bus stops serving Greenbelt residences are at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (178 boardings counted in a single weekday), Roosevelt Center (161 boardings counted) and Hanover Parkway at Mandan Road (131 boardings).

There are several other transit services that serve particular groups or don’t run on fixed routes. Many residents with disabilities rely on MetroAccess and Prince George’s Call-A-Bus services. Students and staff of the University of Maryland can ride the Shuttle-UM. And for most Greenbelters, the only bus service available on Sundays is by reserving a ride on the Greenbelt Connection, which also operates on weekdays.

Proposed Changes

On March 19, as part of efforts to fill a \$189.2 million budget gap in its 2011 fiscal year, Metro proposed a new host of changes to Greenbelt Metrobus routes, reduced holiday service and many reductions elsewhere in the system. Metro projected the Greenbelt route changes, including the elimination of the R3 route, would save \$1,161,716 in annual spending. The proposal would also eliminate service on Edmonston Road, one of the three major north-south streets in Empirian Village. Transfers and additional time would be added to trips to New Carrollton from much of Greenbelt and a number of other reductions would be made.

Greenbelt resident Laura O’Neil, who is legally blind, had not recently been involved in transit advocacy. Since the March 19 proposal was made, she has explained at several meetings how her husband, Shawn O’Neil, who is totally blind, cannot transfer buses in most locations because many buses still do not audibly announce their route

number when they stop.

Mr. O’Neil has taken Metrobus to his New Carrollton workplace for 10 years but would not be able to do so under the current Metro proposal. His situation is echoed among many Greenbelt riders who rented or purchased homes based on existing bus routes. WAMU 88.5’s local news covered Ms. O’Neil’s statement at Metro’s public hearing.

Though Metro has proposed changes to its Metrobus routes, Prince George’s County has not made a proposal of how TheBus routes might be changed to complement a new Metrobus map. This week Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G) wrote a letter to County plan-

ners, calling on them to create a comprehensive concept map of any changes that might be made in Greenbelt. The group noted that implementing route changes only on Metrobus routes, without also considering TheBus routes, would harm the services needed by many Greenbelt riders.

Transit advocates across the region have called on Maryland, D.C., and Virginia authorities to address a share of Metro’s budget gap. Top officials in D.C. and Virginia have pledged to seek those funds but in Maryland there has been no statement by Governor O’Malley. Maryland’s only new action this year has been to delay funds already promised to Metro’s capital fund, causing Metro to scale back long-

term plans for a host of improvements.

On April 20 several Greenbelters including Barnett Minick, Cynthia Newcomer, Bill Orleans and this reporter attended the “Resurrect Metro Rally” held in Seat Pleasant by the Partnership for Renewal In Southern & Central Maryland (PRISCM) and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689. County Councilmember Ingrid Turner, who represents Greenbelt, was present. Numerous speakers called for Maryland to keep up with the costs faced by Metro, which include increased health-insurance premiums and decreased revenue from advertising during the recession.

Meetings

On April 29 the Metro Board was to meet to discuss Interim General Manager Sarles’ proposal for bus route changes as well as alternative plans to balance Metro’s budget without cutting budgets for bus service. In Sarles’ proposal, 14 percent of bus-service cuts in the entire Metro region would be made to routes serving Greenbelt. His proposal, like all previous proposals, would still require significant fare increases, plus increased support from the state of Maryland, to keep up with Metro’s increased costs.

Any specific route changes in Greenbelt remain open for discussion and there could be another round of public hearings if the March 19 proposal is substantially modified. In May, TRU-G representatives and City of Greenbelt staff will meet with county and Metro planners to deliver further input from Greenbelt residents. TRU-G is inviting Greenbelters to help create those comments by attending its next meeting on May 8 at 10 a.m., in the Greenbelt Community Church, Hillside and Crescent Roads.



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Schools Music Featured At May Artful Afternoon

The May Artful Afternoon, to be held on Sunday, May 2 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, will feature the second Greenbelt Schools Music Festival, a dance party and the creation of colorful art flags for display around the city.

Dance

From 1 to 3 p.m. there will be an all-ages dance party. Learn a variety of fun, short dances of the 1920s through the 1980s, including group and partnered work. No previous experience is required. Dances will be taught by Artistic Director Angella Foster and dancers from Greenbelt Alight Dance Theater. Alight is Foster's newly founded company dedicated to inspiring people to be compassionate viewer-participants in their communities.

Flag Creations

Also from 1 to 3 p.m. there will be a hands-on creative workshop led by fiber artist Russ Little where participants can help create colorful art flags for public display. All ages are invited. Little is an artist-in-residence at the Community Center who specializes in fabric dyeing, wearable art and art quilts. Dress appropriately to handle paint and prepare young visitors that this is not a make-and-take activity. It is a special opportunity to collaborate with friends and neighbors on artwork to be displayed throughout the city. Information will be provided for families wanting to repeat art flag-making at home.

Concert

At 3 p.m. the second Greenbelt Schools annual music festival will begin, with talented instrumental and vocal music from students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt Middle School, Springhill Lake, Greenbelt, Magnolia and Berwyn Heights Elementary Schools and Turning Point Academy.

Other Activities

Artful Afternoons include an open house in the studios of the Community Center's nine artists-in-residence from 1 to 4 p.m. There is a variety of original

fine arts and crafts on view and available for purchase as gifts for Mother's Day, graduations and weddings.

The Gallery exhibit on display through April 30 is "Feeder: Sculpture by David D'Orio," with a curious and elegant series of imaginary industrial products representing consumer consumption.

The Greenbelt Museum is open for guided tours from 1 to 5 p.m. for a nominal fee or free with museum membership and provides a view of the history of Greenbelt and city life here in the 1930s and 40s. The home is across the street from the Community Center at 1-B Crescent Road.

Free Raffle

From now through 2:30 p.m. on May 2 people can enter a free raffle to win tickets to local theater performances. The entry box is outside the first floor Art Gallery at the Community Center. Winners will be announced just before the start of the School Music Festival for tickets to see "Wounded Splendor" by David Gonzalez and friends at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. "Wounded Splendor" is a suite of poetry, monologues and dance with an environmental focus and original music score. Another winner will receive tickets to a show of their choice at the Greenbelt Arts Center.

Little Fingers

The Greenbelt Community Center and the Greenbelt Museum welcome visitors of all ages. Visitors are asked to supervise children closely in the art gallery, artist studios and museum house, seeing that they observe the "look but don't touch" rule and hold children's hands as necessary. Both places are committed to being part of children's early gallery and museum-going experience and eager to help prepare them for a lifetime of cultural enjoyment.

For more information about Artful Afternoon or city arts programs visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/arts or call 301-397-2208.



Fiber Artist-in-residence Russ Little will be leading the creation of colorful art flags which will be displayed throughout the city.

Development Players

In the real estate development game, the real players use partnerships or limited liability companies to conduct their business. The real estate development entity Greenbelt Metroland LLC is generally recognized as a venture of the A. H. Smith estate and Prince George's County developer Danny Colton through various legal entities controlled by them.

As early as 1916 the Smith family had a sand and gravel mining operation and later a concrete and asphalt fabrication plant on the land to be developed as the South Core of Greenbelt Station. Colton, who has been prominent in Greenbelt Station development activities, earlier served three years in Federal prison for bank fraud in conjunction with other development projects. While trade publications have reported that Colton terminated his connection with Metroland after filing for bankruptcy in 2009, Colton can still be reached by telephone at the Metroland offices.

Beltway Indian Creek II, LLC is also identified in documents as involved in Metroland with Michael Arrington as its managing member. Apart from his Metroland role, Arrington is a lobbyist in Prince George's County and is described by the management of Empirian Village as its "advocate."

The Washington Post, in articles published September 14 and 15, 2008, reported that search warrants and subpoenas served by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on Prince George's County government offices were part of a federal investigation of the Greenbelt Station development. The Post reported that county government subpoenas sought information about contacts with Colton, Arrington and developer Patrick Ricker involving efforts to rezone the Greenbelt Station property and secure funding for a new Beltway interchange to serve the project. (The News Review is not aware of any further developments in this investigation.)

Greenbelt Ventures, the wannabe purchaser of Metroland, includes Petrie Ross Ventures and is backed by Prudential Insurance Company financing. Petrie Ross is the developer of several high-profile commercial projects including the almost-completed Woodmore Town Centre, Annapolis Town Centre and the City Place Mall in Silver Spring.

Petrie Ross has long been associated with development efforts for Greenbelt Station. A January 26, 2007, New York Times article reported that the Petrie Ross team studied old Greenbelt with its collection of homes and shops separated by bands of greenery in designing a Greenbelt Station "lifestyle center" with open-air commercial districts, central squares and small parks.

— Mary Willis Clarke

WMATA continued from page 1

Following these events the WMATA board never afterward considered the acquisition of Metroland by Greenbelt Ventures.

Lawsuit

In December 2009 Greenbelt Ventures filed a lawsuit seeking to force WMATA to approve its acquisition of Metroland and seeking \$160 million in damages for "breach of contract, unjust enrichment, breach of fiduciary duty, promissory estoppel, interference with contractual relations, interference with prospective advantage and fraud." Originally the lawsuit included Metroland along with Greenbelt Ventures as a plaintiff but Metroland dropped out after the suit was filed and is no longer a party to the suit.

WMATA moved to dismiss the lawsuit. WMATA asserts that, as a creature of the states of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, it is immune from lawsuits except in matters such as contracts where it has agreed to be sued.

WMATA asserts that the non-contract causes of action (reasons for suing) should be dismissed because of WMATA's immunity from most lawsuits as it shares the sovereign immunity of the two states and D.C. WMATA argues that Metroland, not Greenbelt Ventures, has the contractual relationship with WMATA and that the contract issues should be dismissed because there is no contract between WMATA and Greenbelt Ventures.

On March 15 Greenbelt Ventures filed an opposition to WMATA's motion to dismiss and attached more documents. This response and the attached documents reveal more of what has been happening to the planned development than had previously been known.

On April 1 WMATA filed a reply to the opposition to the motion to dismiss, continuing to argue there are no legal grounds for the lawsuit. No subsequent submissions have been filed.

The court case has been assigned to Judge Alexander Williams whose ruling on the motion to dismiss should be the next action in the lawsuit. If Judge Williams rules for WMATA and dismisses the lawsuit, Greenbelt Ventures can appeal. If Judge Williams denies the motion to dismiss, a discovery schedule and trial date would be set.

Information Revealed

Greenbelt Ventures, in its opposition to WMATA's motion to dismiss, asserts that Metroland Managing Member Garth Beall has "been secretly meeting with WMATA and the FBI" to analyze a potential use of the WMATA property for an FBI relocation. The FBI project, which would occupy all of the WMATA property, would require approval by Congress, the Federal Transit Administration, Prince George's County and the City of Greenbelt.

Greenbelt Ventures' opposition to the motion to dismiss includes a copy of a letter from Metroland to Walter Petrie dated December 29, 2009, terminating the Purchase Agreement by which Greenbelt Ventures was to buy Metroland and the ability to purchase the 78-acre WMATA site. Greenbelt Ventures also suggests that it may file a lawsuit against Metroland and attached Walter Petrie's response to the termination letter which takes the

position that the purported termination of the Purchase Agreement has no effect.

Lawsuit filings also confirm that major development requirements have yet to be accomplished. No major department store has agreed to anchor the mixed-use development on the site. Nor have funds been committed in the Maryland Capital Transportation Program for construction of the Beltway interchange for the Greenbelt Station project. Funds allocated for engineering the interchange were in fact placed on hold for the 2009 budget year.



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LETTERS

continued from page 2

fire. In the mind of this offended letter writer the controversy swirls around an “artistic” description of fire-damaged vinyl siding.

With all the horrors being perpetrated on humanity in the name of religion, pursuit of power or plain greed . . . the best this person can do is rail again what, at worst, is a journalist’s literary license?

Beware – the day you succumb to the contrived outrage of the PC crowd and begin to censor journalism as this person suggests will be the day our paper ceases to be a viable source of information and journalistic expression.

John Drago

Apology Needed

Today my son was walking from our home to his job with the City of Greenbelt Recreation Department. He ran into a couple of friends at the intersection of Westway and Lakeside Drive and spoke to them for a couple of minutes. After leaving his friends he proceeded up Westway and half way up he crossed the street.

Shortly thereafter a Greenbelt police officer pulled over and asked him if he knew what “jay-walking” was. He then asked my son what the “exchange” was between him and his friends. He proceeded to pat my son down, asking him to sit on the curb and take his shoes off. The officer questioned if the “hand-shake” he exchanged with his friends was a drug deal and asked if he was buying drugs. He then noticed my son’s Greenbelt Staff shirt and asked if he worked for the city. My son said yes and the officer told him to go to work.

I have known one of my son’s friends he was speaking with for over seven years and the other for four years. Neither of these young men are “drug dealers.” They are African American.

I am appalled that this happened to my son who attends the University of Maryland and is a role model for young kids in the City of Greenbelt. There was no justification for this occurrence and I feel the officer owes my son and his friends an apology.

Cheryl Gleason

LIGHTS

continued from page 1

and also financial support such as buying cleaning equipment and tennis racquets for young people.

When Mayor Judith Davis expressed concern about where the money would come from for the additional light replacements, City Manager Michael McLaughlin said there is money available in the Capital Projects Fund. He added that this project, even expanded, would not use all of the city’s available Project Open Space money.

Court Fees

Davis said tennis players had offered to pay increased fees for metered use of the courts and suggested such funds could help defray the cost of the expanded project. The current rate is 25 cents for 15 minutes and McNeal offered that \$2 to \$4 per hour split among two to four players is not excessive.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts asked that some projection be made of the cost of electricity use at the courts and that the fee be set accordingly. He did not wish to see the city profit from the fees, just meet expenses, he said.

Councilmember Leta Mach reported on research showing that playing tennis improves health, including psychological health, with tennis players showing decreased depression and aggression.

Councilmember Emmitt Jordan spoke to the diversity of the crowd at the tennis courts, a fact supported by members of GTA who said they met people of all ages and walks of life at the courts.

Councilmember Konrad Herling moved to accept the bid from Bishop’s Tennis Inc. to resurface four courts and replace the lights on all eight; the vote in favor was unanimous. And in the tradition of polite tennis fans, the crowd broke its respectful silence and roared.

Street Resurfacing

Prior to discussion on resurfacing the tennis courts, council voted unanimously to approve spending \$240,000 to contract with NZI Construction to mill, resurface and improve curbs and gutters on three city streets. Residents near Westway, Hedge-wood Drive and Greenway Center

Drive will be notified when work is about to begin. McLaughlin said preparatory work should begin before June 30. He also estimated the work would be done for less than the budgeted amount.

McLaughlin also noted that the roundabout at Schrom Hills Park would not be included in this project but would rather be redone on the county’s schedule, using a portion of the county’s funds from the President’s Stimulus Plan.

Bill Orleans asked council why the resurfacing would not use a Green Streets method, which incorporates material that improves water permeability of the street. Davis said the project could not be deferred, according to Public Works staff, and the city does not have the money to spend an additional 60-some percent for the Green Streets method.

ACE Grants

Greenbelt’s Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) has \$4,500 in funds still available from its Grants to Educators program. Chair Jon Gardner represented ACE and submitted for council’s approval nine grant proposals of \$500 each: three from Greenbelt Elementary, two from Greenbelt Middle School, two from Magnolia Elementary, one from Springhill Lake Elementary and one from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Council approved the grants unanimously.

Gardner said ACE also recommends funding an additional six proposals using \$3,000 left over from this year’s allocation to the ACE Reading and Science Club. He said the club’s needs had been overestimated, with a savings realized by converting the newsletter to an all-electronic one, along with other savings on supplies. The club has funds to continue the rest of this year and is comfortable with the \$2,000 reduction in its allocation for next fiscal year, he said.

Mach noted that the total of the additional grants comes to \$2,250 and she made the motion to approve them; the motion was supported by all seven councilmembers.

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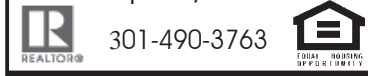
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Student Art Sought For Capitol Display

Congressman Steny Hoyer has announced the 28th annual Congressional Arts Competition, giving high school students an opportunity to have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol building for a year. Greenbelt students are encouraged to participate.

Students interested in participating should first contact Hoyer's Waldorf district office at 301-843-1577 to obtain the full competition guidelines.

All artwork must be delivered to one of Hoyer's two district offices by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 7. The Waldorf office address is 401 Post Office Road, Suite 202, Waldorf, MD 20602. The Greenbelt address is U.S. District Courthouse, 6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 310, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

A panel of art teachers and professional artists from the 5th District will select the winner to represent the District. Other contestants' work will hang in Hoyer's office. The winner will be invited to attend a reception in Washington, D.C. The judging is scheduled to take place during the week of May 11.

Museum Displays Top Nature Photographs

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History is displaying a free exhibit, "Nature's Best 2009 Photography Show" on the second floor through May 2. Shown are winners of the 2009 Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards. The annual awards honor the world's best amateur and professional nature photographers.

Sat. Is Warbler Day At WSSC Facility

Bird lovers are in for a treat on Saturday, May 1 when WSSC holds its annual Warbler Day at Pigtail Recreation Area, 5550 Green Bridge Road in Dayton. From 8 a.m. to noon visitors will have a chance to see birds such as Black-throated Green Warblers, Palm Warblers and Yellow Warblers. Bird lovers enjoy warblers because many can only be seen in this area with their dazzling feathers a few weeks during the year as they fly north to nest.

For more information call Kimberley Knox, WSSC Community Outreach Manager, at 301-206-8233.

WSSC Azalea Garden Peaks Mother's Day

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) Brighton Dam Azalea Garden in Brookeville is renowned for its spring beauty. Five acres of more than 20,000 azaleas are expected to be in full bloom in time for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9. After touring the garden, visitors can relax on the Triadelphia Reservoir picnic grounds. A play area for children also is available.

The garden at 2 Brighton Dam Road is free and open to the public daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; elderly or disabled visitors are welcome to drive through the garden during those hours.

For more information call Brighton Dam at 301-774-9124.

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Spacious Block Townhome - Screened porch, two large bedrooms, and more. Close to Roosevelt Center, library & pools. **Reduced!** \$149,900
Lower Level 1 Bedroom GHI Home - Granite countertops and modern open kitchen. **SOLD** \$109,900
Single-Level Living - No Stairs! - This one bedroom GHI home has a walk-out front and rear entrance. Enjoy your backyard with deck. \$74,900
Corner lot with extra 1/2 bath - Completely remodeled 2 br. Home with refinished flooring on 2nd level. Large lot, patio and more. **SOLD** \$129,900
Amazing Value - 2 bedroom townhome on corner lot with reserved parking in the rear. Fenced backyard, hardwood floors, extra storage. **\$119,900**
Garage and Driveway! - 2 Br GHI townhome with lots of parking and storage space. Light neutral décor. Backs to parkland & playground. \$162,500
Townhome With Addition - First-level addition with extra half-bath - room opens onto private deck. Two bedrooms and remodeled bath upstairs.
Block Townhome - Library end of town. 2 bedrooms, dishwasher, microwave, wd large closets, hardwood on upstairs level. Fenced bckyrd. & patio.
Completely Remodeled - 3 Br townhome with new tile kitchen and dining area. **SOLD** \$169,900
Bowie Rambler - Fully finished basement. 4 BR, 2 1/2 ba, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, large backyard, ceiling fans, carport & more. \$264,000
Brick Townhome - Coming soon. Completely remodeled - All-new kitchen incl. cabinets appliances & more. New windows, paint, flooring... call now!
Amazing Townhome - Completely remodeled 3 bedroom townhome with state-of-the-art kitchen, refinished floors, shed and more. **SOLD** \$164,900
Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center



Alyssa Heintzelman, age 9 of New Carrollton sings.



Aaron Goldstein, age 14 of Berwyn Heights, Jan Knutsen, age 11 of Berwyn Heights and Carlos Castillo, age 12 of Kensington played rock 'n roll standards at the Kid's Open Microphone Session on April 18.

Kid Musicians Wow Café Crowd

by Paula Clinedinst

It was a packed house at the New Deal Café Sunday, April 18 for the kids' version of Open Microphone. Eight acts – groups and individuals alike – took the stage to showcase their musical talents.

First up was the No Name Yet band, known to some fans as Djork, which was made up of Jan Knutson, age 11, of Berwyn Heights on electric guitar and vocals, Aaron Goldstein, age 14, also from Berwyn Heights, on drums, and Carlos Castillo, age

12, of Kensington on bass. With minimal practice ahead of time, the guys pulled off with ease Van Halen's "Runnin' With the Devil" and Led Zeppelin's "Communication Breakdown."

Next up was Greenbelter Elizabeth Gardner, age 8, who played the violin as a soloist, performing Handel's "Gavotte and Variations" and then was joined onstage by fellow Greenbelter Simone Evans, age 9, to perform "Cripple Creek."

More Gardners took the stage

when David Gardner, age 11, played the flute. David was accompanied by his mother, Anne Gardner, on piano and the duo performed "Hunter's Chorus."

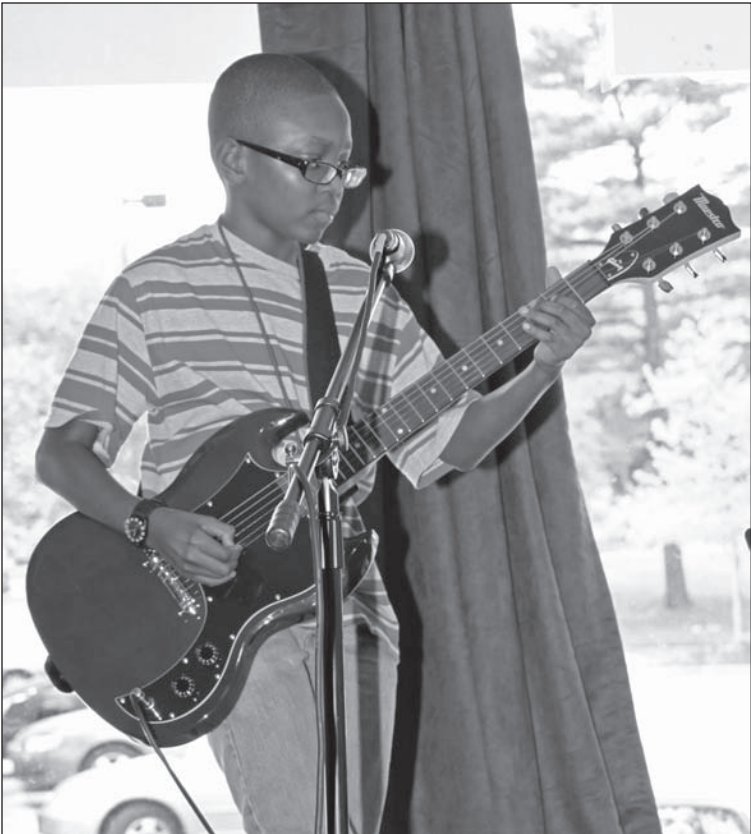
Another piano performer, Alyssa Heintzelman, age 9, from New Carrollton, first played "Stars are Shining" and then followed up with her a capella rendition of the same song.

Rock 'n' roll returned to the stage in the form of Isaiah Lemons, age 11, from Laurel, on electric guitar. Lemons' performance of Joan Jett and the Blackhearts' "I Love Rock'n Roll" quickly got the crowd clapping and singing the chorus.

Candace Jones, 14, of Lanham, wowed the crowd with her amazing voice performing Leona Lewis' "Bleeding Love" but really shone when she performed "Popular" from the Broadway musical "Wicked."

David Gardner returned to the piano to perform "Misty" and "The Pink Panther Theme."

As at most shows, there was an encore set and the No Name Yet band once again took the stage and performed Santana's "Oye Como Va" with Castillo on lead vocals. Lemons and his electric guitar followed up and ended the show with another ren-



PHOTOS BY JON GARDNER

Isaiah Lemons, age 11 of Laurel, performed, "I Love Rock 'n Roll" as the audience sang along.

dition of "Communication Breakdown" and AC/DC's "Highway to Hell."

Most of the performers are still in elementary school but their talent was evident and the smiling faces were proof that music is very much a part of each of their lives.

The Kids' Open Microphone session is held every third Sun-

day of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the New Deal Café. It is organized by Anne Gardner and emceed by a rotating group of hosts, including Jon and Anne Gardner, Allison Smith and Joe Harris. Additionally, a Music Festival will take place on May 1, with a Kids' Open Microphone session at 10 a.m. on the outdoor stage.



Simone Evans and Elizabeth Gardner, both age 8 of Greenbelt, played a violin duet.



Above, Scott Candey, Barbara Turnbull, Kathryn Breon, David Gardner, Nelson Chen and Gloria Collier perform "Irish Dances" at the Solo and Ensemble Festival.



Below, David Gardner (left) and Daniel Seo each got "Superior" ratings for their solos.

– photos by Jon Gardner

GES Music Students Excel, Win Top County Awards

by Anne Gardner

Students at Greenbelt Elementary School excelled at the recent Prince George's County Solo and Ensemble Festival held at Kenmoor Middle School on Saturday, April 17. Sixth-grade band students performed at their best, receiving the highest rating in every entry to the festival.

In the wind ensemble, Scott Candey and Barbara Turnbull played bassoon; David Gardner, Kathryn Breon and Nelson Chen played flute; and Gloria Collier played bells. The adjudicator told them afterward that theirs was the coolest group of instruments he had seen and he encouraged them to keep playing.

Solo performers were Daniel Seo on violin and David Gardner on flute, who were also complimented on their performances.

Describing the occasion, band director Darelynn Fung said, "This is an excellent opportunity for the students to work on their performance skills and learn the enjoyment of working as a group to make music. At the solo and ensemble festival the students must perform on their own without an adult conductor; this is a difficult task and one our students did very well. I am very proud and pleased with their hard work."

More of Greenbelt's talented youth musicians will be showcased in the city's Artful Afternoon program on Sunday, May 2. See article on page 12.